

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A filter assembly for medical and laboratory use comprising a housing, the housing comprising:  
a cover comprising an inlet;  
a bottom part comprising an outlet; and  
a plurality of spring levers distributed around the circumference of the cover, the spring levers rotatable on pivot points and including ~~comprising~~ hook-shaped projections on one side of the pivot points and actuation flaps on the other side of the pivot points, the hook-shaped projections releasably connectable with the bottom part upon actuation of the actuation flaps, wherein the filter assembly is adapted to clamp a filter membrane between the cover and the bottom part in a fluid-tight manner when the hook-shaped projections connect with the bottom part.

2. (Currently amended) A filter assembly according to claim 1, wherein the bottom part comprises a bottom rim, and wherein the hook-shaped projections overlap the bottom rim of the bottom part to releasably attach thereto, and wherein the ~~spring levers rotate on pivot points, and wherein the~~ spring levers are adapted to rotate about the pivot points upon actuation of the ~~comprise~~ upwardly projecting actuation flaps in a radial direction relative to the circumference of the cover.

50. (Currently amended) A filter assembly for medical and laboratory use and adapted to receive a filter media sheet, the filter assembly comprising:

a cover comprising an inlet;  
a bottom part comprising an outlet;  
a means for supporting the filter media sheet; and  
a plurality of spring levers distributed around the circumference of the cover, the spring levers rotatable on pivot points and including ~~comprising~~ hook-shaped projections on one side of the pivot points and actuation flaps on the other side

of the pivot points, the hook-shaped projections releasably connectable with the bottom part upon actuation of the actuation flaps, wherein the filter assembly is adapted to clamp a filter media sheet between the cover and the bottom part in a fluid-tight manner when the hook-shaped projections connect with the bottom part.

51. (Currently amended) A filter assembly according to claim 50, wherein the bottom part comprises a bottom rim, and wherein the hook-shaped projections overlap the bottom rim of the bottom part to releasably attach thereto, and wherein ~~the spring levers rotate on pivot points, and wherein~~ the spring levers are adapted to rotate about the pivot points upon actuation of the ~~comprise~~ upwardly projecting actuation flaps in a radial direction relative to the circumference of the cover.